

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listing of the claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A process for identifying an attention level in an electronic mail text message being sent to multiple recipients comprising:

creating a list of addresses for said recipients;

identifying a specific portion of said text message to be highlighted for a specific address;

appending to each of said addresses a tag representing an attention level for said recipients and a tag identifying said specific highlighted portion;

sending said text message to each of said recipients which includes each of said addresses and the appended tags; and

displaying for each recipient said text message with an attention level indication in response to the tag associated with the recipients address and with said specific portion highlighted for said recipient having said specific address.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The process for identifying an attention level according to claim 1 wherein said step of appending said tag to said address comprises:

selecting said attention level from a table displayed on a user's display screen; selecting an address from a table containing said address list; and

attaching a tag representing said attention level to ~~said~~ each selected address.

4. (Original) The process for identifying an attention level according to claim 1 further comprising attaching a tag representing a default attention level when an attention level is not specified for an address.

5. (Original) The process for identifying an attention level according to claim 1 further comprising ordering each message to be displayed by a recipient according to said attention level.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The process for identifying an attention level according to claim 1 wherein said step of attaching said tag to said specific address for identifying said highlighted portion of text further comprises displaying a table of said addresses following highlighting of said text; and selecting said address from said table which is to receive said tag identifying said highlighted portion.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) A method for displaying electronic messages at a user's display terminal comprising:

determining from a tag inserted in an address field of said message whether any portion of said message is highlighted; and

displaying said message with said portion highlighted when said tag is determined to be present.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) An electronic mail system for generating mail messages which have an attention level comprising:

a computer terminal having a processor which executes an electronic mail program for performing the steps of:

composing a mail message for a plurality of addressees;

creating a table of addressees to receive the same mail message;

identifying in an address field of said same mail message an attention level for each addressee comprising the sub steps of:

displaying on said computer terminal a pop-up table which identifies each address to which said mail message is directed;

displaying on said computer terminal a pop-up table which identifies various attention levels which may be assigned to each addressee; and

inserting a tag identifying one of said attention levels in said address field in response to a user selection of one of said addresses and one of said attention levels; and

transmitting said mail message to said addressees.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) A computer readable medium for storing a program which is executed by a computer system of an electronic mail system, said program executing the steps of:

composing a mail message for a plurality of addressees;

creating a table of addressees to receive the same mail message;

displaying on said computer terminal a pop-up table which identifies each address to which said mail message is directed;

displaying on said computer terminal a pop-up table which identifies various attention levels which may be assigned to each addressee;

identifying in an address field of said same mail message an attention level for each addressee by inserting a tag identifying one of said attention levels in

said address field in response to a user selection of one of said addresses and one of said attention levels; and

transmitting said mail message to said addressees.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) A computer readable medium for storing a program which is executed by a computer system of an electronic mail system, said program executing the steps of:

receiving electronic mail messages generated by another computer terminal storing said electronic mail message in a memory;

determining if said message contains a tag identifying an attention level for said message;

determining from a tag inserted in a field of said message whether any portion of said message is highlighted;

displaying said attention level with said message; and

displaying said message with said portion highlighted.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (New) A process for identifying an attention level in an electronic mail text message being sent to multiple recipients comprising:

creating a list of addresses for said recipients;

identifying a specific portion of said text message to be highlighted for a specific address;

appending to each of said addresses a tag1 representing an attention level for said recipients and a tag2 identifying said specific highlighted portion;

sending said text message to each of said recipients which includes each of said addresses and the appended tag1 and tag2;

displaying for each recipient said text message with an attention level indication in response to the tag1 associated with the recipients address; and

decoding tag2 with said specific portion highlighted for said recipient having said specific address,

wherein the displaying and the decoding are executed on electronic mail terminals of the recipients.